[0015] It is preferred that the first portion of the latching assembly include a lifting member mounted to the curved member to assist the pivotal movement of the curved member. It is also preferred that the stop ~~member~~ bar includes a ramped surface for engagement by the lifting member to assist the curved member to override the stop ~~member~~ bar during latching.

[0018] It is preferred that the first portion of the latching assembly includes a lifting member mounted to the curved member to assist the pivotal movement of the curved member. Preferably, the stop ~~member~~ bar includes a ramped surface for engagement by the lifting member to assist the curved member to override the stop ~~member~~ bar during latching.

[0019] The present invention may also be described in more specific terms with respect to one of its environments. To that end, a leaf blower support device for mounting to a lawn vehicle, the leaf blower support device includes a blower support assembly including ~~an~~ a blower support platform, a pivotal support member mounted thereto, a generally vertical support member projecting outwardly from the one of the blower support platform and the pivotal support member, and at least one generally horizontally-oriented support member mounted to the generally vertically-oriented support member at a position vertically spaced from the implement support platform for engagement by any straps associated with the blower. The present invention also includes a base support member for mounting to the lawn vehicle adjacent an operator seat thereof the base support member having the pivotal support member pivotably mounted thereto for movement of the blower support member between a blower use position and a blower starting position. Also included is a latching assembly having a first portion mounted to

the blower support assembly and a second portion for mounting to the lawn vehicle to selectively retain the blower support platform in the blower use position, wherein the first portion includes a curved member pivotally mounted to one of the implement support member and the pivotal support member and wherein the second portion includes a stop bar for selective engagement and disengagement by the curved member, and wherein the curved member is mounted to one of the blower support platform and the pivotal support member for pivotal movement of the curved member in a generally vertical manner for latching engagement with and disengagement from the stop bar.

[0031] As seen in Figure 1, an implement or blower support assembly is illustrated generally at 12 and includes a generally horizontally extending support member formed as a platform 14 that is sized to hold a conventional blower B and has ~~thereattaehed~~ attached thereto a vertically extending support member 18. The vertically extending support member 18 has two horizontally projecting, spaced support members formed as rods 20 mounted ~~theretwo~~ thereto in a vertically spaced relationship. The rods 20 serve the operator by providing a mounting location for the conventional backpack-like straps S usually provided with a blower B. This eliminates the need to modify a blower for mounting to the implement support device 10.

[0034] The present invention also includes a base support member 22. As illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, the vehicle to which the present implement support device 10 is to be mounted is provided with an inverted, generally L-shaped channel that serves as the base support member 22 and will support the present implement support device 10. At the distal end of the base support member 22, a cylindrical shank 25 is provided which corresponds to the receiver 17 attached to the pivotal support member 16. The tubular

receiver 17 receives the shank 25 and allows the blower support assembly 12 to pivot thereabout. It should be noted that the receiver 17 and ~~shank25~~ shank 25 may be reversed, i.e. the shank 25 being mounted to the pivotal support member 16 and the receiver 17 being mounted to the base support member 22.

[0037] In order to prevent the implement support assembly 12 from swinging freely on its pivot, a latching assembly 24 is provided as seen in Figures 5 and 6. The latching assembly 24 is mounted adjacent the vertical support member 18 and includes a curved member 26 forming a locking portion and including a generally planar lifting portion 28 for lifting engagement by a user to raise the curved member 26, and a stop ~~member~~ bar 30 that is mounted to the vehicle V for engagement by the curved member 26. The stop ~~member~~ bar 30 is provided with a ramped surface 32 that will assist, via contact therewith, the lifting portion 28 in passing over the stop ~~member~~ bar 30 for locking engagement therewith.

[0038] The curved member 26 is spring-biased into a downward position and moves upwardly against the spring (not shown). Therefore, the user must lift the lifting portion 28 in order to disengage the curved member 26 from the stop ~~member~~ bar 30. In the reverse operation, abutment of the curved member 26 with the stop ~~member~~ bar 30 moves the curved member 26 upwardly against the spring and allows the curved member 30 to automatically lock in place once the platform 16 is moved through its travel path to the use position.